

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 EC BRU 01912 291448Z

60

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCI-06 AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00 COA-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 INR-10 IO-14 L-03 NSF-04

NSC-07 NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01 SS-20 SPC-03 FEA-02

NEA-10 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DRC-01

INT-08 /182 W

----- 010486

R 291120Z MAR 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6644

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 1912

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EEC, FR

SUBJECT: ENERGY: FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR EUROPEAN ENERGY AGENCY

REF: A) PARIS 6818; B) LUXEMBOURG 176; C) PARIS 7186

1. SUMMARY. IN DISCUSSING THE FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR A EUROPEAN ENERGY AGENCY, SPAAK CLAIMED THE COMMISSION WAS FAIRLY RELAXED ABOUT IT AND DID NOT VIEW THIS INITIATIVE AS A FRENCH ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE EC INSTITUTIONS. HE ALSO INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT ANY FINAL JUDGEMENT WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT FURTHER COMMUNITY CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSAL. ANOTHER COMMISSION SOURCE WAS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 EC BRU 01912 291448Z

MORE SUSPICIOUS OF FRENCH OBJECTIVES AND SAW THE PROPOSAL AS

AN ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE THE COMMISSION'S ROLE AND THE ENERGY COORDINATING GROUP. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A CONVERSATION WITH A MISSION OFFICER, EC DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ENERGY SPAAK DESCRIBED THE FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR A EUROPEAN ENERGY AGENCY IN THE SAME GENERAL TERMS AS SCHLEICH (REF B). HE SAID THE FRENCH HAVE GIVEN THE COMMISSION A COPY OF THEIR PROPOSAL AND HAVE DISCUSSED IT INFORMALLY WITH COMMISSION OFFICIALS. THE PROPOSAL CALLS FOR THE AGENCY TO BE SEMI-AUTONOMOUS, IN THAT IT WILL BE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY BUT WILL NOT BE A PART OF EITHER THE COMMISSION OR THE COUNCIL. ITS ONLY CONNECTION WITH THE COMMISSION WOULD BE THAT A "SURVEILLANCE COMMITTEE," WHICH WOULD BE COMPOSED OF MEMBERS DRAWN FROM MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, WOULD SERVE UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF A MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION. THE ONLY CONNECTION WITH THE COUNCIL WOULD BE THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE AGENCY WOULD BE APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL. THE FINANCING OF THE AGENCY WOULD BE FROM LEVIES ON OIL IMPORTS INTO THE COMMUNITY.

3. THE FUNCTION OF THE AGENCY WOULD BE TO SERVE AS AN INSTRUMENTALITY FOR INITIATING IDEAS AND COMMON PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY, FOR EXAMPLE IN ENERGY RESEARCH, IN DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES, AND IN ENERGY CONSERVATION. ACCORDING TO SPAAK, THE FRENCH HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT THEY WISH TO CREATE AN EFFICIENT INSTRUMENT WHICH WOULD BE OUTSIDE THE PRESENT INSTITUTIONS BUT WITHIN THE COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK. SPAAK ADDED THAT, FROM THE EXPLANATION GIVEN THE COMMISSION BY THE FRENCH, HE FEELS THAT THE INTENTION IS NOT TO INFRINGE UPON THE FUNCTIONS OF EXISTING COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS, AND HE CITED SPECIFICALLY AS AN EXAMPLE THE COMMISSION'S RIGHT OF INITIATIVE. HE SAID THAT THE FRENCH HAVE ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT THEY ARE VERY FLEXIBLE ON THE POSSIBLE USES AND ORGANIZATION OF THE AGENCY.

4. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE COMMISSION'S REACTION, SPAAK RESPONDED CAREFULLY THAT IF THE PROPER RELATIONSHIPS ARE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE AGENCY AND COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS, THE COMMISSION COULD ACCEPT THE PROPOSED AGENCY. IF THE AGENCY SHOWS THAT IT CAN PERFORM A WORTHWHILE FUNCTION AND WILL OPERATE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK, IT COULD BE USEFUL BECAUSE IT WOULD

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 EC BRU 01912 291448Z

PROBABLY BE ABLE TO BYPASS PRESENT CUMBERSOME BUREAUCRATIC STRUCTURES.

5. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT FRENCH MOTIVES IN SAYING THE AGENCY SHOULD BE THE ONLY COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE IN ENERGY DISCUSSIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES (REF B), SPAAK SAID THIS POINT IS STATED AMBIGUOUSLY AND IT IS NOT YET CLEARLY ESTABLISHED WHAT THE FRENCH HAVE IN MIND. HE SAID THE COMMISSION WOULD

HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO THE AGENCY SPEAKING FOR THE COMMUNITY IF IT WERE TO DO SO ON SUBJECTS OF A CLEARLY DEFINED TECHNICAL OR SCIENTIFIC NATURE. FOR EXAMPLE, IF THE AGENCY WERE CARRYING OUT A COMMUNITY PROJECT ON DEEP SEA DRILLING, IT COULD APPROPRIATELY SPEAK FOR THE COMMUNITY IN ANY INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSIONS OF THIS SUBJECT.

6. SUMMING UP, SPAAK SAID THAT IT WAS HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT THE FRENCH INITIATIVE IS AIMED AT CREATING SOLIDARITY AMONG THE NINE ON ENERGY MATTERS AND THAT IT IS AN EFFORT TO GIVE A NEW IMPETUS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY AND GOES BEYOND THE PRESENT OIL CRISIS. HE SAID ITS SEMI-AUTONOMOUS POSITION, AS PROPOSED BY THE FRENCH, WOULD BE RATHER LIKE THE ORIGINAL HOPES FOR THE EURATOM SUPPLY AGENCY--A QUASI-OFFICIAL AGENCY PERFORMING AN ECONOMIC FUNCTION ON THE BASIS OF COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATIONS. HE SAID HE FELT THE PROPOSAL ORIGINATED FROM THE QUAI D'ORSAY RATHER THAN FROM FRENCH ENERGY OFFICIALS.

7. THE PROPOSAL WAS TO BE DISCUSSED BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES ON MARCH 28. THERE IS AS YET NO FIRM SCHEDULE FOR ITS EVENTUAL CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

8. COMMENT. IT SEEMS THAT SPAAK IS LEANING OVER BACKWARDS TO GIVE THE FRENCH EVERY BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT. HOWEVER, HIS OPINION SHOULD NOT BE IGNORED IN VIEW OF HIS LONG EXPERIENCE IN COMMUNITY ENERGY MATTERS AND HIS HAVING DISCUSSED THE PROPOSALS WITH THE FRENCH. ANOTHER COMMISSION OFFICIAL (FELIX OBOUSSIER, DIRECTOR OF THE EURATOM SUPPLY AGENCY), WHILE LESS DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH THE SUBJECT OF THE FRENCH PROPOSAL, TOLD US THAT IN HIS OPINION THE PROPOSAL WAS CLEARLY AIMED AT UNDERCUTTING BOTH THE WORK OF THE EC AND NEW PROPOSALS FOR A COMMON ENERGY POLICY WHICH HAVE RECENTLY BEEN PREPARED BY THE COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SIMONET. (THE

SE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 EC BRU 01912 291448Z

PRO-
POSALS WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE EC ENERGY COMMITTEE NEXT WEEK AND WE WILL BE REPORTING ON THEM SUBSEQUENTLY.) BARBIS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ENERGY, PETROLEUM, POLICIES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ECBRU01912
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740069-0974
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974035/aaaaadye.tel
Line Count: 157
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) PARIS 6818; B) LUXEMBOURG 176; C)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <05 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ENERGY: FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR EUROPEAN ENERGY AGENCY
TAGS: ENRG, FR, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005